

Yoshie Sugito. Night Wander / Coffee Reading

Exhibition periode: 16th-17th March / 22nd-24th March 2019, 1.00-6.00 pm,

Opening: 15th March 2019, 6.00 pm, Performance The five Pyjamas (+ more) 7.00pm.

With *Night Wander / Coffee Reading*, the Japanese artist Yoshie Sugito continues her artistic work, which deals with stories and oral traditions and finds expression in multimedia drawings, textiles, ceramics, woodwork and installations. Sugito is inspired by everyday experiences and actions which, through social interactions and constant repetition, enable the retelling and updating of stories as well as generating new forms and images.

In *Coffee Reading*, the title of the exhibition and at the same time the name of a drawing series, Sugito uses the technique of reading coffee grounds, which is also known as Kaffeedomantie. Sugito in Kreuzberg has dealt with this old tradition, which like coffee itself originates from the Orient and is still practiced today above all in Southeastern Europe, in several sessions. For some, an amusing pastime, the attraction for the artist lies far less in her supposed ability to catch a glimpse of the future than in this special form of sociable encounters that create individual images and narratives in the coffee grounds by chance and fantastically as well as unpredictably. These are formed as traces by turning the cup over onto the saucer. The transformation of the coffee grounds pictures into drawings takes place by reading and interpreting the symbols and forms, which, however, is not practiced by Sugito, but by the guiding person. The drawings, which are produced with the traditional means of watercolour painting, gain vitality due to an intensive colour palette and let the human and animal beings shine. In addition to the coffee grounds drawings, the series also includes monotypes on paper that document the scene of the coffee grounds reading.

With *The five Pyjamas (+ more)* Sugito has also created a work that deals with narration and, at the same time, is directly connected to the exhibition place. With her textile works, which consist of a large number of pyjamas, Sugito refers to the Bethanien art space by enveloping the two central columns in the middle of the room. The Central Deaconesses House, a horseshoe-shaped facility consisting of a massive main wing flanked by two slender towers, was operating as a hospital until 1970. Whether the textiles are clothing left behind by former hospital visitors and what they have to tell can be determined during the opening evening through a performance, when the pyjamas are breathed into the story(s) and the audience is invited to imagine possible pyjama wearers. The performance will take place in German and Japanese.

The exhibition at Kunstraum Bethanien presents new series of works inspired by a three-month-long Artist in Residence program at Tokyo Arts and Space Berlin, which is supervised by Kreuzberg/Bethanien. This takes place within the framework of the city-partnership between Berlin and Tokyo, accompanied by the Senate Chancellery / City Partnerships.

Yoshie Sugito (* 1985, Aichi, Japan) lives and works in Berlin. She studied in Braunschweig at the University of Artand at the Musashino Art University Tokyo. Sugito received the Tokyo Wonder Wall Prize (2016) and the Hotta-ikuei Scholarship (2010-2012). Her latest exhibitions include *people! people!*, mom art space (Hamburg, 2018) / *Glas Herz Fenster*, Il Caminetto (Hamburg, 2018) / *STAUB IN DEN AUGEN EINES SEILTÄNZERS*, Gallery 21 (2018, Hamburg) / *Peach Boy - Melon Mädchen*, Mathilde Hatzenberger Gallery (Brussels, 2017), *CUTTING*, Mathilde Hatzenberger Gallery (Brussels, 2016).